

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

The Office Action mailed November 29, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. With the current amendment, claims 1 and 8-9 have been amended, and claims 7 and 18-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendment and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

OVERVIEW OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1-2 and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuo et al (6,608,328). Claim 20 has been objected to for its redundancy with claim 19. Claims 3-10 and 13-20 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PATENTABILITY OF CLAIMS OVER PRIOR ART

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 3-10 and 13-20 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Amended independent claim 1 is essentially claim 7 rewritten to include all the limitations of base claim 1. Claim 7 was directly dependent on claim 1. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is

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allowable. Each of claims 2-6 and 8-17 depends from, either directly or indirectly, amended independent claim 1 and, thus, benefits from the allowability of amended independent claim 1.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 29, 2005